

Desert Locust update during the second dekad in December, 2005

Summary

Small-scale breeding continued in western Mauritania, southern Algeria and along the Red Sea coasts in Tokar Delta, Sudan during the reporting period. Ground control operations were carried out in Mauritania and Algeria. According to FAO, control operations declined along the Indo-Pakistan borders as adult locusts began leaving for the winter breeding areas in Baluchistan, western Pakistan. Isolated, scattered solitary immature and mature adults were seen in a few places in northern Air, Niger. No locusts were reported in Senegal, Morocco or Mali. Significant developments are not likely in the coming weeks, but survey and monitoring are still recommended to avert any unnoticed developments especially in areas where favorable conditions persist and adult locust activities have been sighted.

Mauritania:

Ecological conditions remained favorable in Zouerat and Bir Moghreïn in the northern zone, Awker and Fay central zone and a few oueds and lowlying areas in the eastern region.

According to CLAA/Mauritania, mature and immature solitary adults were observed in several places in the northern, central and eastern zones. Medium and low density hoppers of various stages were also detected in the central and eastern regions, respectively. Control operations were carried out against solitary and transient hoppers in 271 ha in Aftout Fay in the central zone. This brings the total areas treated during the month to 723 ha.

Forecast:

An increase in adult locusts will likely be seen in the coming weeks in Aftout Fay, central zone and the Edafers and Tamassoumit, eastern zone. Increased number of solitary locusts will likely be seen in the coming weeks in areas of

recent rainfall in the northern zone. Active survey and monitoring are recommended.

Sudan:

The locust situation remained relatively calm in the outbreak areas in the country during the second dekad in December. According to PPD/Sudan, only scattered solitary immature and mature adults at densities ranging from 13-275 individuals/ha were seen over the 536 ha recently surveyed in Tokar Delta. Isolated solitary second, third, fourth and fifth instar hoppers at densities ranging from 2-14 hoppers/800 m² were also detected in the areas surveyed. Copulating and laying adults were detected in Tibillinaï (18 17 35N/37 41 34E). Survey operations are in progress in the northern Red Sea coast, including Port Sudan area where heavy rain fell on 17th December. No locusts were reported in the other states.

Forecast:

Although significant developments are not likely, the presence of mature and immature locusts coupled with the relatively favorable conditions in the Tokar Delta will likely allow small scale breeding in the coming weeks. Ecological conditions are expected to improve north and west of Port Sudan where heavy rains fell during this dekad. Survey and monitoring are recommended in these areas. Other outbreak regions will likely remain calm in the coming weeks.

Niger

The drop in temperatures in the northern zone slowed down biological activities of the locusts. The drying up of vegetation (e.g., *Tribulus*) in Tamesna which in previous months continued during this dekad, however, it is possible that *Schouwia* could have developed between dunes and in the wadis in Tamesna and the Air during this time. According to DPV/Niger, with no apparent changes in climatic conditions in the outbreak areas and continued unfavorable ecological conditions, neither survey nor

control operations were necessitated during this dekad.

Forecast

Locust activities will continue to remain calm and significant developments are not expected in the coming weeks. Small-scale activities may be seen in patches of green vegetations in parts of Tamesna and the Air. Monitoring is recommended.

DPV/Niger's DL pesticide stock remains the same, i.e., 187,590 liters

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